

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
 - 2 receiving entertainment programming input;
 - 3 identifying multiple versions of an available entertainment program;
 - 4 identifying, for each of the multiple versions, a set of descriptive information
 - 5 regarding the respective version, the descriptive information comprising a plurality of
 - 6 characteristics of the respective version;
 - 7 identifying the differences in characteristics between the multiple versions; and
 - 8 displaying the differences in characteristics between the multiple versions to a
 - 9 user.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the differences comprises
- 2 displaying only the identified differences in characteristics.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the differences comprises
- 2 highlighting the identified differences in characteristics.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the characteristics comprise at least one of
- 2 a source identifier, a channel transport medium, channel audio support, program duration,
- 3 viewing format, pricing, enhanced programming availability, closed captioning
- 4 availability, color availability, language of subtitles in the version and language spoken in
- 5 the version.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 receiving a selection from the user identifying one of the plurality of the
3 multiple versions; and

4 displaying the multiple version corresponding to the user selection.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the multiple versions are available using
2 different channel transport media the method further comprising displaying an
3 identification of the channel transport medium for each respective version.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the channel transport media include one
2 or more of cable broadcast, satellite broadcast, radio frequency broadcast, telephone
3 interface, computer network interface, CD-ROM, video disk, and video cassette.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying multiple versions comprises
2 searching through data of an electronic programming guide.

1 9. A storage medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions that,
2 when executed by a processor, result in:

3 receiving entertainment programming input;

4 identifying multiple versions of an available entertainment program;

5 identifying, for each of the multiple versions, a set of descriptive information

6 regarding the respective version, the descriptive information comprising a plurality of

7 characteristics of the respective version;

8 identifying the differences in characteristics between the multiple versions; and

9 displaying the differences in characteristics between the multiple versions to a

10 user.

1 10. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein the plurality of instructions which
2 when executed by the processor, result in displaying the differences, further result in
3 displaying only the identified differences in characteristics.

1 11. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein the plurality of instructions which
2 when executed by the processor, result in displaying the differences, further result in
3 highlighting the identified differences in characteristics.

1 12. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein the characteristics comprise at
2 least one of a source identifier, a channel transport medium, channel audio support,
3 program duration, viewing format, pricing, enhanced programming availability, closed
4 captioning availability, color availability, language of subtitles in the version and
5 language spoken in the version.

1 13. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein the plurality of instructions, when
2 executed by the processor, further result in receiving a selection from the user identifying
3 one of the multiple versions, and displaying the multiple version corresponding to the
4 user selection.

1 14. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein the multiple versions are
2 available using different channel transport media and wherein the plurality of
3 instructions, when executed by the processor, further result in displaying an identification
4 of the channel transport medium for each respective version.

1 15. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein the channel transport media
2 include one or more of cable broadcast, satellite broadcast, radio frequency broadcast,
3 telephone interface, computer network interface, CD-ROM, video disk, and video
4 cassette.

1 16. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein the plurality of instructions,
2 which when executed by the processor, result in identifying multiple versions comprise
3 searching through data of an electronic programming guide.

1 17. An apparatus comprising:
2 a program guide controller to receive entertainment programming input;
3 a selection controller coupled to the program guide controller to identify multiple
4 available versions of an entertainment program. to identify, for each of the multiple
5 versions, a set of descriptive information regarding the respective version, the descriptive
6 information comprising a plurality of characteristics of the respective version and to
7 identify the differences in characteristics between the multiple versions; and
8 a device controller, coupled to the selection controller, to display the
9 differences in characteristics between the multiple versions to a user.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the device controller in displaying the
2 differences is to display only the identified differences in characteristics.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the device controller in displaying the
2 differences is to highlight the identified differences in characteristics.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the characteristics comprise at least
2 one of a source identifier, a channel transport medium, channel audio support, program
3 duration, viewing format, pricing, enhanced programming availability, closed captioning
4 availability, color availability, language of subtitles in the version and language spoken in
5 the version.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a user interface controller to
2 receive a selection from the user identifying one of the plurality of the multiple versions;

3 and wherein the device controller is further to display the multiple version corresponding
4 to the user selection.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the multiple versions are available
2 using different channel transport media and wherein the device controller is further to
3 display an identification of the channel transport medium for each respective version.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the channel transport media include
2 one or more of cable broadcast, satellite broadcast, radio frequency broadcast, telephone
3 interface, computer network interface, CD-ROM, video disk, and video cassette.